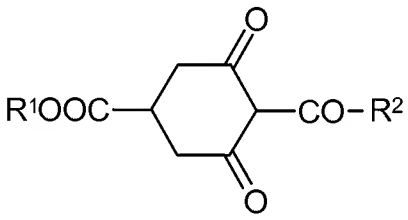
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of the treatment of pome fruit for ~~at least partially~~ preventing, in the year after the treatment, reduced floral development which results ~~of pome fruit plants resulting~~ from treatment with the compound ~~applying at least one compound~~ of formula I:



(I)

wherein

R^1 is H or C_1-C_{10}-alkyl and

R^2 is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl or C_3-C_{10}-cycloalkyl,

or salt thereof, and for preventing biennial bearing which may be induced by the treatment, which comprises applying at least one compound of formula I, or a salt thereof and ~~to said plants or parts thereof, said method comprising also applying~~ 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid (ethephon), as a mixture or separately, to pome fruit plants

or parts of pome fruit, either simultaneously or in succession. ~~with said compound or salt thereof or separately, to said plants or parts thereof.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the floral development is improved.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the pome fruit plants are apples or pears.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein in the compound of formula I, R^1 is H and R^2 is ethyl, and the compound of formula I is present in the form of the calcium salt.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein in the compound of the formula I, R^1 is ethyl and R^2 is cyclopropyl.

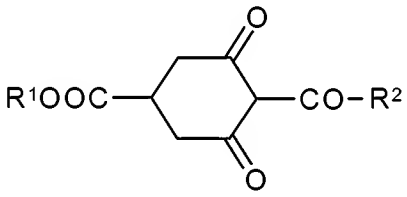
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound of formula I or salt thereof and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid are employed in a weight ratio of from 10:1 to 1:5.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the compound of formula I or salt thereof and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid are employed as a mixture in the form

of an aqueous spray mixture in which the compound of formula I or salt thereof and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid are present in a total amount of from 50 to 1 000 ppm.

18.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the application rate of the compound of the formula I or salt thereof and of 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid is in the range of from in each case 25 to 1 500 g/ha per season.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of pome fruit, comprising applying (a) at least one compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is H or C_1-C_{10}-alkyl and

R^2 is C_1-C_{10}-alkyl or C_3-C_{10}-cycloalkyl,

or salt thereof and (b) 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid, as a mixture or separately, to pome fruit plants or parts of pome fruit plants in the form of an aqueous spray, either simultaneously or in succession.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the method improves floral development of the pome fruit plants.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein R^1 is H or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein R^2 is C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the compound of formula (I) or salt thereof is prohexadione, prohexadione-calcium, trinexapac or trinexapac-ethyl.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the compound of formula I or salt thereof and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid are employed in a weight ratio of from 10:1 to 1:5.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the compound of formula (I) or salt thereof, and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid (ethephon), are each applied at the application rate of 25 to 1500 g/ha per season.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the active substances are applied 1 to 5 times per season.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the pome fruit plants are apples or pears.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the aqueous spray is applied to the aerial part of the plants to the run-off point.